

## WE MUST ROOT OUT RACISM

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 2, 2017*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank my colleagues, for organizing this important special order hour and for their dedicated leadership in the fight to take racism and discrimination head on in America.

I'd also like to thank Chairman RICHMOND for his mighty leadership of our caucus as we work in resistance to this Administration.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with my colleagues in the fight to Root Out Racism from our society.

Our country was founded on the values of freedom, justice and equality.

Right now, those very same values are under attack from the highest levels of our government where the President of the United States and Republicans are openly embracing racist and discriminatory policies and actions.

As we speak the Trump Administration is actively supporting a Presidential Voting Commission which is rooted in voter suppression and racism.

As we speak, Attorney General Jeff Sessions is undoing consent decrees, funding private prisons and reviving the failed War on Drugs which is rooted in racism.

As we speak, this Administration is waging an all-out attack on affirmative action on campuses across the country which is rooted in racism.

As we speak, the President of the United States is being advised by individuals with ties to white supremacists, white nationalists and Neo-Nazis.

And to make matters worse, the President takes to Twitter nearly every morning to fan the flames of division and discrimination.

Choosing to tacitly speak out against racially motivated killings in Charlottesville but finding ample time to insult athletes who are protesting in solidarity with Colin Kaepernick.

Mr. Speaker, a recent NBC News/Wallstreet Journal poll found that 70 percent of Americans believe race relations in America are poor.

This should come as a surprise to no one. I am convinced that the public wants us to root out racism.

Attacks against communities of color seem to have no end under the Trump Administration. Racism, unfortunately is alive and well in the United States.

We need look no further than the devastating budget cuts Republicans have proposed which would disproportionately impact African Americans.

We must also acknowledge that systematic racism permeates these policies.

Last year then-presidential candidate Donald Trump asked African Americans what do we have to lose?

The answer is clearer than ever before: everything.

Critical programs that help the most vulnerable such as Meals on Wheels, heating and energy assistance, and nutrition aid to women and children are on the chopping block in the President's budget.

The President's budget eliminates: Community Development Block Grants; HOME programs that provide affordable housing for low-

income residents; Legal Services Corporation, which helps those who cannot afford legal representation; and the Minority Business Development Agency, which helps promote minority-owned businesses.

And Republicans are determined to continue their crusade against the Affordable Care Act which would rip healthcare from millions of African Americans.

For over 50 years our progress as a nation has been measured by how we reckon with the remaining vestiges of slavery, how we root out racism when it rears its ugly head.

Administrations have been judged by their support for civil rights, voting rights, advances in health care, public education, social justice and strengthening ladders of opportunity to enter the middle for African Americans.

This Administration is failing on all accounts. That is why as the "Conscience of the Congress", Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have united to resist the rollback of progress.

We will resist this cruel hearted political agenda, which exudes racism at its core.

We will stand united in defense of our communities.

And we will exercise our God-given constitutional rights.

From Jamestown to Jim Crow, we've fought to root out racism in this country and we have won amazing victories.

So right now, despite the challenges we face with this President and Republicans in Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus will continue to fight.

Whether it's standing up to the alt right agenda in the White House or taking a knee in solidarity with courageous Americans, we will not lose heart in the fight to root out racism. Because in the words of that old negro spiritual, "We aint gonna let nobody, turn us around".

#### HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 2, 2017*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Troy, Illinois, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

St. Paul's had its beginning in 1864 when local Lutheran families first came together for worship. In 1865 a new church building was dedicated, which served both as a place to worship and as a school, and on January 25, 1867, St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation was officially established.

Since then, St. Paul's has had a strong presence in Troy. Whether by providing an elementary school education to its children, giving back to Troy through its community-based services, or simply ministering to its congregation, St. Paul's has been a focal point for the religious and spiritual needs of the community.

In the years since the first church building was dedicated, St. Paul's has undergone many changes: a second house of God was dedicated in 1888, German and English services began in 1900, an extensive remodeling occurred in 1938, and construction on the current church began in 1961. But what has not

changed over the past 150 years has been the spirit of love and joy in God's work that first animated St. Paul's and is present in today's congregation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an important milestone for St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and I wish it, and its pastor, the Reverend Michael Schuessler, the very best as they celebrate the church's 150th anniversary.

#### HAPPY DOUBLE TEN DAY (TAIWAN)

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 2, 2017*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish both the people of Taiwan and Americans celebrating Taiwan's National Day this October 10th a Happy Double Ten Day.

Our two countries' partnership has flourished thanks to a mutual commitment to democratic values and constitutional government. Taiwan has created a strong democracy, as evidenced by the six direct presidential elections the country has held since 1996 and the three peaceful passages of power from one political party to another in the wake of these elections, most recently in 2016. Taiwan now serves as a strong example of democracy for not only the Asia Pacific region, but also the world.

The strength of this bond has also been demonstrated most recently by a series of common initiatives. In August, our two nations collaborated on the launch of Taiwan's first domestically built satellite, the Formosat-5, and Taiwan signed letters of intent to purchase approximately 365 million bushels of U.S. grains in 2018 and 2019 worth almost \$3 billion. Additionally, Taipei pledged \$800,000 to relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

I applaud Taiwan's commitment to deepening ties with the United States, and the people of Taiwan should rest assured that Americans and this Congress share it.

This is a day to celebrate, and to be optimistic. I ask my colleagues to join me in recommitting ourselves to the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and in wishing Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

#### RECOGNIZING PAWNEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S 165TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 2, 2017*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize Pawnee United Methodist Church as they celebrate their 165th anniversary serving Pawnee, Illinois through ministry and service.

In 1852, Pastor Rev. A. Bradshaw established the first Methodist class in Pawnee, IL, where they met in a home of a member of the congregation. Five years later, the first Methodist church was built in what is now the heart of downtown Pawnee. By 1966, an additional space was needed to accommodate the growing congregation, thus a new sanctuary was built.